
ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 8

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Sunday, December 4, 1988
Springfield Civic Center
Springfield, MA

19

Hello, and welcome to another issue of "Arena Report". I really need to come up with another intro. That one is getting old quick. This will be the last issue you will see before the holidays as the next report will be from Hartford on 12/31. It's an afternoon show. (Do you think my wife would go to wrestling on New Years Eve night?) Maybe I'm crazy enough but she's not. This issue has the most correspondent reports yet and I'm grateful to those responsible. We also finally have our first letter to the editor. (That we can print anyway.)

"Arena Report" comes out twice amonth with no set dates as it depends on the arena dates. The cost is 50¢ an issue and you may order up to any amount you like. The report focuses on the card which I attend and also includes reports from the readers, letters, and a ramblings column with tidbits of news and opinions. I'd like to emphasize again, since I haven't done this since issue #1 and I have acquired many new readers since then, that I am not looking to be another Dave Meltzer or Jon Gallagher, etc. "Arena Report" is not for everyone. It's for the fans who like detailed results as well as my opinions on the wrestling scene. The reason I do this little project is because I enjoy this nutty sport and I enjoy corresponding with you, other fans of wrestling. Okay Ron, off the soapbox.

All renewals, (after that last speel I probably won't have any) match results, and letters are to be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT. 06066. Attending tonights show with me were Dan Reilly and his son Christopher who was a sub for Tom Burke who no showed due to his real job. Let's hit the mat.

Opening Match

Jim Powers beat Jose Estrada with a sunset flip in the corner in 12:45. First few minutes were abysmal. Picked up after that.
RL ** DR (C*)

2nd Match

Terry Taylor defeated George Skaalond in 6:10 with the scorpion hold. Taylors antics were funny but the wrestling stunk.
RL ½* DR (C)

Return Tag Team Match

Fabulous Rougeau Brothers beat the Hart Foundation in 7:50. Brother Love was the guest referee. The match was mainly comedy and Bruce Pritchard does a real good job in this role. End came when Bret had Jacques pinned but Bro Love counted very slow.

When Hart got up he started yelling at Pritchard enabling Jacques to roll him up and Love gave a very fast count. After the Harts cleared the ring, they gave Brother Love the slingshot clothesline. Good bump by Brother Bruce. RL ** DR (B)

4th Match

King Haku beat S.D. Jones in 10:10. Horrible bout. Ref Dave Hebner had more heat than these two as fans were chanting, "Dave, Dave, Dave, etc." Haku clotheslined Jones and then nailed him with a good diving headbutt. RL ½* DR (F)

Return Match

Brutus Beefcake pinned Ron Bass in 11:00. Bass looks like he's been working out lifting twinkies. Match was their typical dud with Beefer rolling the outlaw up after Bass missed a charge from the corner. RL Dud DR (F)

W.W.F. Tag Team Championship

Powers of Pain beat Demolition by disqualification in 6:17. Mr. Fuji had come out earlier to try to get the fans to realize who the heels were. Unfortunately, he did it by slapping George Skaalond around after his bout with Taylor. The fans were cheering him. Who cares about Skaalond? Fuji was on the ring apron about to hit Smash with the cane when Axe grabbed it and started beating everyone up with it. Ref signaled for the dq. Barbarian took a great bump over the top rope after an Axe clothesline. Better match than Hartford. RL ** DR (C+)

7th Match

Barry Horowitz beat Mike Sharpe in 8:26. I wonder if Barry gets this much heat everywhere. The fans were chanting, "Baaaaarry, Baaarry, Baaarry." He was playing it to the hilt. Iron Mike took the mic and said, "You know Horowitz, you better watch out or some old lady will come out of the crowd and beat the shit out of you." End saw Mike load the brace, throw Barry into the ropes and missed but Horowitz threw a nice elbow to set up the small package. RL * DR (D)

W.W.F. Heavyweight Championship

Randy Savage retained his title in 4:09. The worst main event I have ever seen. By the way, his opponent was Akeem. The new African threw Savage into the corner but Randy jumped up on the second rope and gave a flying bodypress for the pin. The last three matches I've seen with Macho Man have been horrible. I don't know what his problem is. Even Hogan's matches are better than this. Christopher said they probably had to catch a plane. I hope they missed it. RL Dud DR (F)

Springfield Notes

We went over to UAWF Fan of the Year Tom Burke's house before the show. You talk about nostalgia. This guy has so much wrestling history in his office, it's unreal. If any of you are ever in the Springfield area, give Tom a call. He'd be glad to hear from you. I'd like to thank Tom again for all his hospitality. You knew what you were doing when you backed out of the show..... Crowd was 2,700 which is typical for here... They return 1/28 at 2:00 with this line-up: Andre-Jake Roberts, Haku-Ultimate Warrior, Rude-Beefcake, Arn & Tully vs. The Rockers, Bass-Martel, Davis-Blazer...

Ramblings

The N.W.A. continues to go through much turmoil. A big shock and a very stupid move is that they have hired the one and only Junkyard Dog. He is scheduled to do a run in this Wed. night at "Clash of the Champions" during the Ivan-Paul Jones match. Where is Nikita you ask? He's quit and gone to work for Nelson Royal's new group, Atlantic Coast Wrestling. Also, Dusty is no longer the booker but his replacement for the moment isn't much better...Jim Crockett. We'll know Wed. night if Dusty stays on as a wrestler. If he no shows which some are speculating, than he's history. It also looks like Ric Flair will eventually be the new booker which experts say is a bad move as it will take time away from the gym and his own ring work. Here's some good news: David Crockett is being taken off the TBS P.M. show. Now the bad news. He'll be hosting the a.m. show... Everyone said it would get worse before it gets better and they're all right... The reason Blue Blazer has been missing shows over the past few weeks is that he suffered an injury at Survivor's with that botched leapfrog over Valentine...Should be back soon unless he gets wise...As you can see from the next card in Springfield, Rick Martel will be returning. I thought in the last WWF magazine they said his career was over?...John Studd will also be returning at the next t.v. tapings. Looks like he'll be a face to feud with Andre. Wouldn't surprise me if they try to make him #2 babyface behind Hogan so they can full fledge turn Savage. They're going to need someone else to headline once that happens but I doubt very much Studd is the answer. As a matter of fact I would bet my future house on it. And if you win, I'll tell you I bought it in the Bronx...Jimmy Garvin started up for World Class this past Friday in Dallas. He worked against the Beast...Speaking of World Class, they are now back on television up here. They had been off for about 8 months...The plans for the Bunkhouse Stampede was for Dustin Rhodes to win the thing but with papa out as booker that was probably (hopefully) changed. Hopefully, "the grandson of a plumber" won't even come into the NWA...I finally saw the movie "Bodyslam". A bad movie. The acting was pitiful. Actually, Piper and Sam Fatu were better than Dirk Benedict and Charles Nelson Reilly. The only thing I enjoyed were the wrestling scenes. I'm usually very easy to please when it comes to movies. The heel tag champions were played by Tijo Khan and Barbarian. They were called the Cannibals. Individually they were known as Axe and Hammer. Sound familiar?... The Barry Windham-Bobby Fulton match on the syndicated show this weekend was real good. Hopefully they'll go back to one main event each show...I heard Superclash III has a chance of being a real bomb. They already have their program printed for the show and they are still plugging Ron Garvin's name to go against Greg Gagne... Robert Gibson and Gagne had won the tag belts from Tanaka & Diamond but they had been given back to the Diamond Exchange. The plans are for the Rock N Roll Express to win them eventually or whenever Ricky Morton decides to show up for a show... Well, I think that's enough rambling this time out. I encourage everyone to drop me a line and let me know what you think about the state of wrestling. Actually write about anything..I need letters.

Correspondent Reports

Nassau Coliseum

Uniondale, N.Y.

November 11, 1988

Correspondent: Gary Fishman

1) Blue Blazer pinned Danny Davis. Terrible bout as Davis stood like a statue and Blazer couldn't do anything with him. Dud 2) Brain Busters beat the Young Stallions when Arn Anderson pinned Jim Powers. An okay match by W.W.F. standards but not Tully and Arns. 3) Jim Neidhart pinned Ray Rougeau in 3 minutes. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 4) Jacques Rougeau ~~beat~~ beat Bret Hart when Raymond interfered. Neidhart came out for a ~~three~~ way brawl. Dud. 5) Ultimate Warrior beat the Honkey Tonk Man by disqualification in a better than expected bout. $**\frac{1}{4}$ 6) Hulk Hogan was the guest in a live Brother Love segment which also had Slick on hand. Basically the same thing happened that everyone saw on Sat. Nights Main Event. 7) Akeem beat Hacksaw Duggan when Dino Bravo interfered. Fans loved Duggan although he didn't do a thing. Dud 8) Dino Bravo pinned S.D. Jones who was a sub for Junkyard Dog. Not much of an improvement. No comment on the grade. 9) Brutus Beefcake pinned Ron Bass. Not bad for a Beefer match. Bass did some good brawling outside the ring. $**\frac{1}{4}$ Attendance was a near sellout 14,000.

Raleigh Civic Center

Raleigh, N.C.

November 16, 1988

Correspondent: Mike Gunter

1) Original Midnite Express beat Team America (Mike Justice & Curtis Thompson) when Randy Rose pinned Thompson. Grade: D 2) Eddie Gilbert pinned Italian Stallion in a babyface match. C- 3) Bobby Fulton beat Cruel Connection #1. This was supposed to be Fantastics vs. Sheeps but they had already become the Bushwackers and gone to Titan land. Grade: D+ 4) Dr. Death Steve Williams defeated Ron Simmons when Kevin Sullivan distracted Simmons. Best match on the card. C+ 5) The Koloffs beat the Russian A's after Nikita pinned Jack Victory (#2) D 6) Road Warriors beat The Midnites with Cornette. The match was in a cage but only went four minutes. Express tried but the Roadies didn't feel like working. C- Mike said this was probably the worst card he's ever been to. Gee Mike, I guess you haven't been to many Vince shows. Lucky guy.

Philadelphia Civic Center

Philadelphia, PA

November 19, 1988

Correspondent: Gary Fishman

1) Stan Lane pinned Italian Stallion in a match where everyone cheered Stan. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 2) Original Midnite Express with Paul E. beat The Fantastics with the phone. This was an excellent match. Rose even took great bumps. $***\frac{1}{2}$ 3) Ivan Koloff pinned Russian Assassin #2 after a coin flip between Ivan and Nikita as it was announced that #1 was injured and couldn't make the tag match. After the bout, Victory loaded the mask and attacked Ivan until Nick made the save. $**\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Steve Williams & Mike Rotunda beat Ron Simmons and Bam Bam Bigelow. Simmons was hit with a foreign object and pinned. $**\frac{1}{4}$ 5) Rick Steiner beat Barry Windham via dq for being thrown over the top rope. Steiner was a sub for Dusty as this was one of his three no shows of the weekend. I wish he would no show the rest of his career. $***\frac{1}{2}$ 6) Roadies double count out with Sting and Lex Luger. A hot match in which both teams were cheered wildly. Match was a wild brawl which saw both teams battle back to the dressing room. **** I hope we have action like this at the get together in Feb.

Memorial Hall Kansas City, KS
Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

November 24, 1988

1) T.C. "Soulman" Carter drew Ric Reagan in 10 minutes. Both wrestlers missed a lot of moves. 2) Grim Reaper with Raven beat Mike Enos in 9:44 using the ropes. 3) "Big" Steve Ray beat Akio Sato by dq. when Akio threw the ref into Ray. Both worked hard. Time was 15:08. 4) Bad Company, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond beat Ric McCord & Derrick Dukes when Tanaka pinned Dukes using the ropes in 20:10. Fast paced match. 5) Mike George and Iron Sheik went to a double count out in 15:00. 6) Steve Ray won a 12 man battle royal. Bruce's favorite wrestler. Bulldog Bob Brown was the guest ref. After the match, Mike George and Akio Sato attacked Ray. Good heat. Attendance-580.

St. Joseph Civic Arena St. Joseph, MO
Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

November 25, 1988

1) Ric Reagan defeated Grim Reaper in 10:48. Horrible bout. 2) Bob Brown pinned T.C. Carter in 11:46. The story is not the match but after as Brown almost causes another riot. Does anyone get more legit heat than this guy? 3) Pat Tanaka, Paul Diamond, & Akio Sato beat Ric McCord, Mike Enos, & Derrick Dukes in a six man tag at 26:23. Great action in this one. Diamond pinned Enos. 4) Mike George and Steve Ray went to a double count out in 12:04. Mostly rest holds. 5) Sgt. Slaughter beat the Iron Sheik via dq when Sheik hit the ref with a foreign object in 15:00. It was announced that he was fined \$250. Working for Central States, that's probably 2 weeks pay. 6) Pat Tanaka won a 12 man battle royal when he came out from under the ring and dropkicked McCord over for the win in 15:04. Attendance-438. I thought I had another report from Bruce as he said he went to the circus and I thought he meant a WWF show but he really did go to Ringling Brothers. He said it was better than a Vince show. Do I doubt it?

Ahoskie Arena (not sure of facility) Ahoskie, NC November 27, 1988
Correspondent: Mike Basnight

1) Dale Turner beat Tommy Eaton. 2) Pretty Boy Bobby Rose upended Funktown Kid in a match where both worked hard. 3) Super Enforcer & Chief David Three Feathers beat The Untouchables in a heated tag match. 4) The Mod Squad and Lazertron & The African went to a double dq. Hector worked the crowd well in a match that went 17 minutes. 5) Jimmy Valiant beat Cuban Assassin in a N.Y. Street Fight in which neither man bled and bout only went 6 minutes. Boogie Man promised promoters 15 minutes and the crowd went away disappointed. Valiant was probably pissed that he didn't sell enough of his \$3 pictures. What a clown! Attendance was 475.

Providence Civic Center Providence, RI December 2, 1988
Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Barry Horowitz defeated Mike Sharpe after Iron Mike missed with the loaded arm brace and Barry rolled him up for the pin. Time was 13:17. 2) Boris Zhukov beat George Skaalond with a clothesline from the middle rope in 5:25. Skaalond was a sub for Blue Blazer who as we mentioned earlier is injured. 3) Greg Valentine beat Tito Santana via count out in 11:31. 4) Harley Race suplexed S.D. Jones in 5:29. 5) Bad News Brown came out before this match and was making remarks

about Randy Savage. Ted DiBiase and Virgil came to the ring for their match with Savage & Hercules and Brown stayed at ringside for the match which the faces won in 10:10 with Randy's flying elbow onto Virgil. After the bout, Brown jumped Randy setting up the main event 12/31. (You got it, New Years Eve night. Nice guy that McMahon, he can't even give his boys a night like that off. Actually, he's probably worried about what might happen if they had the night off.)
6) Hart Foundation and The Ragu Brothers went to a 19:00 draw.
7) Pete Dougherty over Conquistador #1 with a small package in 8:30.
8) Andre the Giant over Jake Roberts via dq in which Jake had two snakes. One under the ring and one in his corner. Bout went 13:26.
Attendance-5,000

Letters To The Editor

A W.W.F. Sundae

The state of wrestling is horrible. All independent promotions get no exposure, talent in the N.W.A. is all leaving and going to the W.W.F. where they are burying them under the likes of JYD (no more) Dino Bravo and Jim Duggan.

The W.W.F. is like a sundae with chocolate ice cream, peppermint ice cream, carmel, peanuts, syrup, bannanas, and oreos. Seperate, all these things are good, but not when mixed together in a sundae.

Chris Shinn
Wethersfield, CT

RL- Good analogy. Although I think Titan is currently overloaded with bananas at this time.

Final Word

Well, that wraps up another issue of "Arena Report". I hope everyone enjoyed this issue. My thanks to Mike, Gary, Louie, Mike B., and Bruce for their reports. The next issue will be mailed out 1/2 and cover the 12/31 Hartford show. January's schedule looks a little light right now. I'll be attending the Springfield show on the 28th but the area is dry unless I take a trip up to Beantown to the Garden. I have to find out the date of that one. I hope everyone has a nice holiday season and Santa Claus brings you everything you want including that Missy Hyatt blowup doll.

See ya,
Ron

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
